able to start their projects on account of long gestation period and the size of capital investment with a prohibitive debt burden; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILA CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The private power policy of Government of India has been widely accepted, both by domestic investors as well as inter-national investors, as is evidenced from the 195 expressions of interest received from private investors. The policy provides, inter-alia, tax holiday in respect of 100 per cent taxable profits in the first five years, and 30 per cent taxable profits in the following five years for power plants commencing commercial operation before March 31, 1998. The customs duty for import of power equipment has been reduced to 20 per cent and this rate has also been extended to machinery required for modernisation and renovation of power plants.

Since power projects are capital intensive and also required several statutory as well as non-statutory clearances, some time is bound to be required before construction work on the projects could start.

Tehri Project

3116. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the construction work of Tehri Project is being carried out by Government continuously;

(b) if so, the total amount spent on the construction work of said project till March 1995;

(c) whether the size and shape of Tehri project has since been finalised by Government; and

(d) if so, what is the estimated amount of the total project expenditure as per the final decision taken regarding construction of the project and by when it is to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILA CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) The construction work of Tehri Project is being carried out by Tehri Hydro Development Corporation.

(b) A sum of about Rs. 909 crores (provisional) has been spent on the project till March, 1995.

(c) and (d) The Tehri Dam Hydroelectric Project (4x250MW) Stage I has been approved at a cost of Rs. 2963.66 crores (March, 1993 price level) for being completed by March, 1999.

Penalty for delay in power supply in Maharashtra State Electricity Board by Enron

6117. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, as per the agreement, Enron will pay penalties for any delay in supply of power to Maharashtra State Electricity Board; and

(b) if so, the details of such penalties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILA CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the Agreement, Dabhol Power Company is to complete Phase

1 of the project within 1005 days from its financial closure failing which they will have to pay to MSEB Rs. 4.5 lakhs for each day delay upto 180 days and Rs. 35.2 lakhs for each day delay thereafter.

Power shortage due to exodus of Industries

6118. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been large scale exodus of industries from Ahmedabad in Gujarat to adjoining Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan;

(b) whether this trend has caused industrial power shortage in these States; and

(c) if so, the measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILA CHIMANBHAI PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Adverse effect of cotton control order on cooperative spinning mills in Maharashtra

6119. SHRI V. N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra has represented that the recent amendment to the Cotton Control Order adversely affects the cooperative spinning mills in Maharashtra as the cotton growers by their cooperative set up are often obliged to stock cotton in excess of three months consumption;

(b) whether the targetting of the mills for serious action has achieved the objective of preventing hoarding of cotton without affecting the interests of cotton growers; and

(c) if not, whether the amendment will be revoked?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir, the interest of the cotton growers are also effectively taken care of by the current market prices which are prevailing 60 to 125 per cent above the Minimum Support Price in case of most varieties of cotton.

Export of handicrafts and handloom Products of Rajasthan

6120. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up any special scheme for the development and export of handicraft and handloom products of Rajasthan keeping in view the demand of such products abroad:

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the increase in percentage during the last three years and future prospects during the current year;

(c) the funds sanctioned/released during the last three years, till-date and total allocation made during Eighth Plan period for development of handicrafts; and

(d) whether Government propose to give more incentives to Rajasthan craftsmen so as to keep alive this trade/workmanship?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) There is no special scheme